

# REED SMITH SHAW & McCLAY

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To: DAVID STREET  
 Firm/Company: U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE  
 Fax Machine No.: 202-616-6583

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April 15, 1993

David Street 202-616-6583  
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-882 (218)

Re: Quenching

It has always been accepted as compliance with regulations requiring clean water quench, and is a regular practice in the industry, to use river water, i.e. "clean water", for quenching in a closed system whereby the unevaporated river water is recycled. Treatment plants, such as Clairton's biological system, are issued permits by the agencies to handle the volume of contaminated water from the coke batteries. Clairton quenches only with river water, with no addition of contaminated water.

It is our judgment that any minimal quantity of contaminants which may be present due to recycling the unevaporated river water are of inconsequential impact on ambient air quality. The agencies must be of the same opinion since the system as it operates at Clairton has been accepted for many years as compliance with the regulations.

Since you are interested in test data of samples from the sumps, we attach a copy of July 13, 1989, letter from Allegheny County to Robert DeTorre which encloses analysis of quench water samples taken by the Bureau at Clairton.

The Bureau emphasizes that samples were taken both when contaminated water was added to the river quench water and when no contaminated water was added, indicating that the important question is whether there is any contaminated water being added to the river water. Clairton does not add contaminated water to the river water used for quenching.

As I said to you yesterday, if you have any further concerns about this subject, we will appreciate the opportunity to talk with you directly.

*Dorothy A. Servis*  
Dorothy A. Servis

cc: R. Dworek  
R. McCollum  
S. K. Todd

13-216  
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